THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This Department has released an amount of Rs. 3,52,000 (3,20,000 as loan and Rs. 32,000 as grant) to the Women Cooperative Societies of Gujarat, in the year 1997-98. No grant has been released for the last three years.

(c) Two Women Cooperative Societies from Ahmedabad district and two from Banskantha district of Gujarat were provided financial assistance during the said period.

(d) Out of these four Women Cooperative Societies, three were engaged in credit activities and one in consumer activities.

New Techniques for Animal Husbandry and Dairying

1341. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made to develop new techniques in respect of development and expansion in the field of animal husbandry and dairy industry;

(b) the steps taken to provide information about these techniques to the concerned persons and institutions and to encourage them to apply the same; and

(c) the efforts being made to prevent the constant decline in the number of various animals relating to dairy industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The thrust of the Government policy in the animal husbandry & dairy sector is on improving the productivity of animals through scientific management and upgradation of genetic resources of livestock, controlling of animal diseases, increasing availability of nutritious feed & fodder and establishment of dairy processing and marketing infrastructure for livestock products. The Government has been implementing various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes for developing and extending new techniques for the development of animal husbandry and dairy sectors.

(c) A number of schemes viz. " Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases", "National Project on Rinderpest Eradication" (NPRE) and 'Directorate of Animal Health' are being implemented to provide diagnostic and other health care facilities to milch animals against number of diseases.